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SOME BITS OF HISTORY.

CELEBRETIES WHO HAVE RESIDED AT FT. GIBSON.

Jefferson Davis, Sam Houston, Henry M. Stanley and Zachary Taylor were Among Them.

From The Fort Gibson Post.

From a historical standpoint Ft. Gibson is far ahead of any town in the Indian Territory. Associated with her history are the names of many of the most noted men of America. Jefferson Davis, Gen. Sam Houston, Zachary Taylor, Henry M. Stanley, James G. Blaine and other well-known characters of national and international reputations have been classed among her residents and distinguished visitors.

It was away back in the 30's, soon after Fort Gibson was established, that Henry M. Stanley, afterwards the celebrated African explorer, taught school under the protection of the soldiers' guns. Stanley was then a young man of small means and little idea of the fame that awaited him. There are still living hereabouts old people who knew him, but none of them have any recollection of his personal appearance or the exact locality where his school was conducted.

When Sam Houston resigned the governorship of Tennessee and mysteriously disappeared from a discontented bride-wife, he was next heard of in the Cherokee nation. After arriving among his old time Cherokee friends Houston stopped for some time down on the Arkansas river near Webbers Falls. Here he resided with old Chief John Jolly, whom he knew in Tennessee before the Cherokees removed west. On the north bank of the Arkansas, at the mouth of the Illinois river, was a stage stand and here Houston and Jolly conducted a general store for a year in co-partnership. Although Houston's methods of business were rather loose he was nevertheless business manager of the concern, and the firm "went broke" at the end of the first year. They did a good deal of credit business, but it is said no books were kept. When a customer ordered a bill of goods Houston simply charged the amount of the purchase on the wall with a piece of charcoal and when the same was paid (if paid at all) the charcoal entry was erased by the use of a wet rag. It is said by persons yet living and who knew the facts, that Houston drank like a fish when he lived in this country and that one of his principal articles of merchandise at the old stage stand was Fort Smith whisky, ammunition and firearms. While carrying on his mercantile business at this place Houston met one of his boyhood sweethearts, a half-breed Cherokee girl who he knew in Tennessee before the tribe came west. The meeting resulted in an engagement and after Houston had secured a divorce from his Tennessee wife he and Miss Rogers were married. They lived happily together for about a year, when she died. This marriage to a Cherokee girl while in this country, strange to say, has been successfully kept out of the biography of the aftewards great Houston, and his descendants even to this day deny the truth of it. It is a fact, however, well known to some of our oldest citizens, who know even many of the tails of the romantic episode. Houston, it is said, was very devoted to his Cherokee bride, and after her death he erected a stone at the head of her grave bearing an endearing inscription. Just why the ancestors of Houston should object so strenuously to the publicity of this incident is a mystery, because there was certainly no disgrace in his marrying for true love's sake so beautiful and tender a Cherokee maiden as Talihina Rogers is reputed to have been. Nothing less than false Caucasian pride could warrant the aversion.

After the death of his half-breed Cherokee wife Houston came to Fort Gibson, where he remained until his departure for Texas. His added trouble and bereavement was probably responsible for his continued dissipation, as it is said he drank heavily while living at this place. How long he remained here before going to Texas is not definitely known; but the oldest inhabitants inform us that his place of abode was a little log house that stood on the hill near where the Presbyterian church now stands. He spent much of his time with officers of the fort and with the soldiers at the sutler's store, spinning yarns and whittling rapaciously with a keen-bladed jack-knife. He carried soft pine timber in his pockets for the purpose and seldom left a place without leaving the signs of his whittling habit. Sam Houston went from Fort Gibson to Texas when that unborned republic was in the throes of a revolution, fought the decisive battle of San Jacinto, made Texas free and himself famous.

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Perhaps the most distinguished personage who ever resided at Ft. Gibson in her early days was Jefferson Davis, who afterwards became president of the confederacy and leader of the lost cause. It was along in the 30's when Davis came to Ft. Gibson, a young man just graduated from West Point. At the time Zachary Taylor was a commanding officer at this place and Davis was sent out here to act as one of his lieutenants. How long Lieutenant Davis remained at Ft. Gibson cannot be definitely ascertained without consulting the old military records at Washington, but it is known that he was here a year or more. It is learned from a semi-authentic source that when Davis came to Ft. Gibson he met for the first time the daughter of Gen. Taylor, who he afterwards married after a romantic and exciting courtship, all of which was against the wishes of gruff old Zachary. As a result Lieutenant Davis' attention to Miss Taylor while at Ft. Gibson caused trouble between General Taylor and Davis, and it is said the two did not speak to each other until they chanced to meet several years afterwards at the close of the bloody battle of Buena Vista.

The house which is generally known to have been the one in which Jefferson Davis resided while here stood near Judge G. O. Sanders' present residence at the base of Garrison hill. A confused pile of stone and mortar is now about all the evidence left of its existence and location. Since the historic old structure tumbled down a year or two ago and was removed piece by piece for fire-wood and other purposes, the last splinter and every nail or scrap of the building has been gathered by visitors recently and carried away with them, to be kept as relics of the Fort Gibson home of Jefferson Davis.

For several years before this old building was removed it attracted much attention, and were it standing to-day it would doubtless be preserved by our citizens for perhaps another generation or more. After the railroad was built through Fort Gibson the "Old Davis House" was an object of much interest to travelers passing through the town. It could plainly be seen from the car windows and was pointed out to thousands, while many people have stopped off with no other object in view than a closer inspection of the house, and to take away with them a piece of wood, a nail or something else as a relic. The building was constructed of large hewn logs with two stories and a basement. At each end of the structure was a huge stone chimney and large open fire-places. It was built many, many, years ago, when Fort Gibson was the extreme western out post of the army—when great herds of wild horses and buffalo dotted the prairie hereabouts, and when the hostile Osages roamed with unbridled freedom over what is now the beautiful Indian Territory.

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It has been customary from time immemorial for Indian tribes to meet together around the council fire, smoke the pipe, join the hands of friendship, discourse upon and devise measures conceived to the ends of peace or war, as circumstances might direct. The first large gathering of the kind of which we were cognizant was the council called together at Tahlequah in 1843. The Indian Territory, proper, has been organized but a few years, while the country north of it to the Missouri river was Indian country: That council was the largest and in some respects the most important council ever gathered on the western frontier. The great body of Cherokees had only been in the country four or five years and everything was new to them, while their isoloted position east of the Mississippi made them strangers to nearly all the tribes located in the west. An unsettled condition existed among portions of some of the tribes; distrust was mingled with ignorance of the temper and spirit of others. The whites on the border were also ignorant and suspicious of those who had been so rudely thrust from their native homes, as had the Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws and Chickasaws, and were frequently, from speculative and other motives, calling on the government for increased protection. Troops were kept in force at Fort Smith, Fort Gibson, Fort Scott and Fort Leavenworth. There was a restless, uneasy feeling existing. In order to meet these conditions and to establish proper relations along the frontier between the whites and Indians and the Indians themselves, the council referred to was called. The Cherokees who rank as the oldest brother among the Indian tribes, took the initiative steps, sent out runners to the different tribes located from the Missouri river south into the state of Texas, with messages and sticks, indicating that the pathways were unobstructed and the number of days at the end of which the great council fire would be kindled at the beloved town of Tahlequah. The time fixed was in the month of June, 1843. And, so, 55 years ago the meeting took place. Thirty-three tribes and parts of tribes responded to the call. They came on horses and mules and with such conveniences for camping as could be easily brought along on pack animals from day to day relying chiefly on hunting to supply meat. The Delawares, Shawnees, Wyandottes, Osages and southern tribes were there. General Zachary Taylor, commanding the troops at the western posts with headquarters at Ft Gibson, and other officers of the army with their ladies, were also in attendance. The council was held beneath a large shed built for the purpose of public meetings, in the center of the public square where the capitol building now stands. The Cherokees opened the council, the venerable Geo. Lowrey repeating the traditions of their fathers, as he held belts of wampum in his hands and which were interpreted sentence by sentence into all the different languages spoken by delegates on the ground. The council lasted several days. Everything passed off pleasantly and relations of peace and friendship were established which have not broken to the present unless, indeed, the late civil war may be excested, and into which the Indians were unfortunately thrust by the pressure brought to bear upon them by the condition of affairs existing on their border. A written compact was entered in by some of the tribes represented, which has been since enlarged and is now in force, looking to the preservation of order, the promotion of morals, the enforcement of law and the protection of their rights. In 1866 provisions were made for a general council of the five civilized nations and other tribes in the Indian Territory. This council met on several occasions at Okmulgee but was given up. Other councils were held before and since the war at different places and within a few years, notably at Eufaula, where several sessions were held. In 1887 it was agreed to meet at Fort Gibson in May of that year. The meeting took place, but not being attended by all the tribes it was adjourned till June 1888, at which time there was a large gathering.

Spelling Reform.

The American Philological Association hes recommended the following "Rules for New Spelling," and a resolution has been introduced in congress instructing the public printer to conform to them in all printing for the government:

1. Drop ue at the end of words like dialogue, catalogue, etc, where the preceding vowel is short. Thus, spell demagog, epilog, synagog, etc.

2. Drop final e in such words as definite, infinite, favorite, etc., where the preceding vowel is short. Thus, spell opposit, preterit, hypocrit, requisit, etc.

3. Drop final te in words like quartette, coquette, cigarette, etc. Thus, spell cigaret, roset, epaulet. vedet, gazet, etc.

4. Drop final me in words like programme. Thus, spell program, oriflam, gram, etc.

5 Change ph to f in words like phantom, telegraph, phase, etc. Thus, spell alfabet, paragraf, filosofy, fonetic, fotograf, etc.

6. Substitute e for the diphthong ae and oe when they have the sound of that letter. Thus, spell eolin, esthetic, diarrhea, subpena, esofagus, atheneum, etc.

The association says: "English spelling is the worst in the world. Millions of dollars are wasted each year in the writing and printing of useless letters. The education of our children is retarded and the progress of our people is hampered by our cumbrous, illogical, misleading orthography. The scholarship of the world is almost a unit in demanding a change."—Valley News.

True Courtesy.

General Lee was in the cars going to Richmond one day, and was seatd at the end farthest from the door. The other seats were filled with officers and soldiers. An old woman, poorly dressed, entered at one of the stations, and finding no seat, and none having been offered to her, approached the end where the General was seated. He immediately rose and gave her his seat. Instantly there was a general rising, each one offering his seat to the General. But he calmly said, "No, gentlemen; if there was no seat for the infirm old woman, there can be none for me." The affect was remarkable. One after another got out of the car. The seats seemed to be too hot for them, and the General and the old lady soon had the car to themselves. —Shield and Sword.

KNOCK OUT FOR WATTS.

JUDGE SPRINGER REVIEWS THE INTRUDER CASE.

Was Never Admitted by Chief Justice Vann—Special Master Gibson Taken to Task for His Report in the Case.

Judge Springer has just rendered another opinion in the Watts citizenship case, in overruling the application of Watts for a rehearing that it seems ought to settle the question of the Watts family's citizenship in the Cherokee nation finally. And it ought without doubt to settle his right to be heard before the committees of congress, and also his future standing in the courts. Judge Springer leaves no ground for Watts to stand upon, either in the courts, the Dawes commission or congress. Judge Springer's opinion is as follows:

Springer, Judge. It is unnecessary to refer to all of the grounds set forth in this motion for re-hearing. Many of them have been referred to heretofore, and some of them have been specially in the general opinion of this court on the subject of citizenship in the Cherokee nation. Reference will only be had therefore to such matters as are stated herein as have not been heretofore referred to.

The third ground for a re-hearing in this case is to the effect that the judgment in this case of Hon. John S. Vann, as chief justice of the supreme court of the Cherokee nation was final and conclusive in favor of the applicants for citizenship in this case, and that said judgment was rendered, as found by the special master, on the 12th day of November, 1871. In view of the insistance of counsel for applicants upon this allegation that applicants were admitted to citizenship in the Cherokee nation by Chief Justice Vann on Nov. 12, 1871, a futher examination of the record in this case has been made for the purpose of ascertaining the evidence upon which the master made this finding. Among the papers in the record in this case will be found an affidavit by the principal claimant, W. J. Watts, which was taken before G. W. Parker, special agent of the interior department, at Tahlequah July 17, 1893. In this affidavit of Mr. Watts it is stated in substance, as follows: That he is fifty-three years of age; that he has lived in the Cherokee nation since October 1871. That he came from Clarksville, Arkansas. After his removal to the Cherokee nation he made application for Malachi Watts to Chief Justice Vann of the supreme court for admission. This application was made on the 12th day of November, 1871, at Tahlequah. It was heard on the same day before Judge Vann, he at that time was the Chief Justice of the supreme court of the Cherokee nation. Malachi Watts was at that time at Clarksville, Arkansas. Mr. Watts says: "Chief Justice Vann told me that I had introduced enough evidence to satisfy him, and that I could go home." "I told him that I wanted to purchase property; he said that I was perfectly justifiable in making the purchase that I then contemplated." I did not at that time receive any writing. I learned later on that Judge Vann had made a report to the council or senate. I never saw the report; made diligent effort to see it. I made effort before the investigation before Judge Parker to see Judge Vann's report. In 1874 I learned that the records in my case were destroyed. On this information I came to Tahlequah, and I went to the place where the record books were kept to make my own examination. I could find nothing pertaining to my case. The papers were open to access to any one. I learned that there had been some prisoners and guards kept there, and that the boxes in which the papers had been kept were broken into. This information was from some of the authorities of the country. I searched for three days and found nothing. I learned that some person who was hearing of my case had carried the papers to the country fifteen miles. John Taylor, an attorney, told me, that my papers were in the bulk. I told him if he would assist me in getting my papers I would pay him for his labor. Thompson then made a search, requesting me to remain in town until he could go out in the country, and in the course of two days he told me that he had found my papers. I found the papers were partly there. He delivered the papers to me, and the council had then convened. Prior to receiving my papers I met Mr. Vann, and told him the papers were lost, and that the council were going to take some action in the case. He furnished me a certificate, the copy of which is in the documentary evidence. In the investigation before Judge Parker I think the certificate was introduced by the nation—that is the paper handed me by Vann to furnish the national council. The paper had the appearance of having been changed. The "one" in 1871, is changed to a "2" making it 1872. I was not before the chief justice in 1872; never was before the court at Fort Gibson; don't know of my own knowledge that Judge Vann ever held court at Fort Gibson, though I have heard that he did. And further Mr Watts testified: "At the time of the trial in November, 1871, I was present in the court. Judge Vann told me in open court, and from the bench, that no further evidence was required. At

(Concluded on second page.)

SHIPS TO GO 60 MILES AN HOUR.

Amazing Speed to be Obtained by Using Turbines.

Since the Turbinia's famous run on the Solent, during the great naval review of June last, when she attained the very remarkable speed of 40 miles an hour, she has been lying up at the Heaton works, Newcastle-on-Tyne. In a few days the Turbinia will go out on another trial, the object of which will be to test the reversing engines, with which she is now being fitted. One of the great disadvantages of the old Turbinia was her inability to put astern except at a very low speed, three knots an hour being the utmost she could reach. Now, however, she will be capable of steaming astern ten knots an hour, a special reversing turbine having been fitted into her since the naval review.

This extra turbine, it was explained, does not add much to the weight of the vessel, and the opinion was expressed that such extra turbine will have to be carried in all ships of the future that carry rotary instead of reciprocating engines.

In the engine-room of the Turbinia there are three rotary turbines, through which the steam passes in turn and goes through a cycle of most complete expansion. The enormous rate at which the turbines revolve necessitates three propeller shafts, each fitted with three screws. These revolve at some 2,200 revolutions a minute, and it would seem that this rapidity makes the turbine specially applicable to ship propulsion, though it has hitherto proved a disadvantage in the application of this new system to dynamo driving, traction, etc.

Mr. Parsons, builder of the Turbinia, stated that he did not intend to go in for shipbuilding. He will content himself with constructing the turbines. It was evident that we were on the brink of a new era in marine locomotion, for one heard on all sides of a state of uncertainty in shipping and marine circles, shipbuilders hesitating before commencing the construction of any more vessels of the old type till they saw whether the new type would really hold the field. Questioned as to the speed which it would be possible to attain in rotary engined ships, Mr. Parsons said it was merely a question of the size of the turbine. Speeds of 40, 50, 60 and even more miles an hour would, he considered, not be impossible.—Chicago Chronicle.

Irving's Spectacles.

Sir Henry Irving has one peculiarity that only those brought into intimate contact with him recognize. This is in regard to the number of spectacles and glasses of various sorts that he always has in hand, both at the Lyceum theater and at home. At the Lyceum he has quite two dozen pairs of one kind and another, and no employe about the place ever dreams of removing them, for when Sir Henry is busy with some production he is perpetually losing his spectacles, and, as he is far more dependent on these than most people know, he flies to the nearest point where he is sure he may find a pair. He is constantly buying new pairs of glasses, and when he is good-naturedly rallied about this he pleads guilty to having quite 60 pairs either at the theater or at home.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Lost Her Postscript.

Walker—I had the laugh on my wife to-day.

Ryder—How did it happen?

Walker—She discovered an echo while we were out driving, and it got in the last word.—Chicago News.

AROUND THE WORLD.

The Trip Can Soon Be Made in Twenty-Three Days.

A German railway paper, with one of those compound German names, too-long-to-copy-reminding-u-of-the-permanent-way with words for rails and hyphens for splices between, says that when the Trans-Siberian railway has been completed the tour of the world can be made in 33 days. This is considerably less than half the time in which Jules Verne's hero accomplished it. The following is the table from the German paper with the jointed name:

Bremen to St. Petersburg	1½ days
St. Petersburg to Vladivostock	19 days
Vladivostock to San Francisco	10 days
San Francisco to New York	4½ days
New York to Bremen	7 days
Total	33 days

A correspondent of the French Revue Scientifique, translated in the Literary Digest, however, brings the total down ten days by simply assuming a higher speed of travel. He says:

"I assume for steamers a speed of 27 miles an hour, instead of 18 miles, the former speed having been recently obtained in England by torpedo boats, and for railways instead of a speed of 70 kilometers (43½ miles) an hour, that of 100 kilometers (62 miles), which will be attained whenever we wish to undertake the expenses of relaying our permanent ways. We shall have the following figures:

Paris to Pacific ocean, via Asia	8 days
Coast of Asia to San Francisco	7 1-3 days
San Francisco to New York	2 days
New York to Paris	4 2-3 days
Total	23 days

It has been remarked that some horses could trot a good deal faster in a barroom than they could on a racetrack, and it may be suspected that steamships will never make quite as good time on the Pacific or the Atlantic oceans as they can on the pages of a scientific review. It is doubtful, too, whether transcontinental railway trains will ever average over 43½ miles an hour unless a special train tried for a record. A little might be saved by taking the train at Vancouver to Boston or Halifax, because by so doing the traveler could go round the little end of the earth. In fact, none of the trips are strictly "tours of the world," because they keep near the fortieth parallel of latitude. If one could reach the north pole where the end of the parallels are tucked in, one could catch hold of the pole and swing around it in a fraction of a second. There would be no east or west for him, for every direction would be southerly, and the compass needle which "knocked the center plum out of the North star" would assume a vertical position. To really go around the earth one must follow a great circle and make the full 27,000 miles. Mark Twain's trip from here to Vancouver, thence to Australia, thence to India, thence to London, would be about as near an approximation to this as the present routes of travel allow, if only he would return to the starting point and complete his "swinging around the great circle."—Hartford Courant.

A hare may draw a lion with a golden cord.

A liar is not believed when he speaks the truth.—Italian.

Something like home that is not home, is to be desired; it is to be found in the house of a friend.—Sir William Temple.

If anyone meets us who owes us a debt of gratitude, it immediately crosses our mind. How often can we meet someone to whom we owe gratitude, without thinking of it!—Goethe.

I have always noticed that the ruder, the less cultivated natures one knows nowadays are far more capable of being sorry for you than glad with you.—"The Story of William and Lucy Smith," George S. Merriam.

By doing each duty fully as it comes, we qualify for more light and greater aptitude for succeeding duties. Faithfulness day by day in small things will make us keen to recognize the divine voice with reference to greater things.—Chapman.

A house filled with guests is eaten up and ill spoken of.